



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 82

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 5441

House of Representatives, March 29, 2001

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS FOR THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 29-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
2 substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Division of State Police within the Department of Public
4 Safety, upon its initiative, or when requested by any person, shall,
5 whenever practical, assist in or assume the investigation, detection and
6 prosecution of any criminal matter or alleged violation of law. All state
7 policemen shall have, in any part of the state, the same powers with
8 respect to criminal matters and the enforcement of the law relating
9 thereto as policemen or constables have in their respective
10 jurisdictions. [Said] The commissioner shall devise and make effective
11 a system of police patrols throughout the state, exclusive of cities and
12 boroughs, for the purpose of preventing or detecting any violation of
13 the criminal law or any law relating to motor vehicles and shall

14 establish and maintain such barracks or substations as may prove
15 necessary to accomplish such purpose.

16 (b) The commissioner shall develop and maintain a minimum
17 staffing level of patrol troopers at all times within each barracks or
18 substation. Such minimum staffing levels shall not include staff
19 assigned to specialized units, such as resident troopers, cooperative
20 policing assignments, school resource officers or traffic assignment
21 personnel. Such minimum staffing levels shall not be used to deny
22 troopers within the barracks or substation accumulated time off,
23 including, but not limited to, normal days off, vacation days and
24 personal leave days.

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Significant Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Public Safety (Division of State Police)

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

This bill could result in additional costs to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) that could be significant. The bill requires the commissioner of DPS to establish and maintain minimum patrol trooper staffing levels at all of the state police barracks and substations. The bill also specifies that this minimum level cannot be maintained by denying troopers any earned time off.

The department currently has about 1,100 troopers. It will not reach its statutorily mandated minimum of 1,248 troopers until December 2001, even though this is required by July 1, 2001. It is unlikely that even this number of troopers would result in staffing levels that are significantly higher than the minimum requirements. It appears that the department's only option would be to pay overtime to replace troopers who would be taking time off. Costs could be significant and would depend on (1) the minimum staffing levels that are established, (2) the actual number of troopers assigned to the units, and (3) the

troopers' use of earned leave.

The department's overtime costs have increased almost fifty percent (50%) in the past three years, even as the number of troopers has increased by about fourteen percent (14%) over that time.

YEAR	TROOPERS	OVERTIME
FY 98	967	\$6,592,251
FY 99	1,024	\$7,315,364
FY 00	1,041	\$9,233,447
FY 01 (Est.)	1,099	\$9.8 M (Est.)

The department is currently reducing its overtime costs due to allotment reductions and other budgetary holdbacks in FY 01. The department's budgets for FY 02 and FY 03 include additional reductions in Personal Services funding that are anticipated to place even more restrictions on the use of overtime.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5441

***AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS FOR THE
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE.***

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the public safety commissioner to “develop” and maintain minimum patrol trooper staffing levels at all the state police barracks and substations. He cannot include in the minimum count “specialized” unit staff, such as resident troopers, school resource officers, traffic assignment personnel, or officers assigned to cooperative policing. And he cannot maintain the level by denying troopers any earned time off, including regular days off, vacation time, or personal leave.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 21 Nay 0